Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A device for controlling a facsimile transmission of confidential information comprising:

a comparison unit adapted to compare, at a near end, a near end password entered at a time of facsimile initiation at said device for controlling said facsimile transmission with a far end password entered at said time of facsimile initiation transmitted to said device for controlling said facsimile transmission; and

a transmission unit adapted to allow transmission of confidential information to a far end if said near end comparison of said near end password with said far end password[[,]] results in a match.

- 2. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, wherein said device comprises:
 - a facsimile machine.
- 3. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, wherein said device comprises:
 - a PC modem.
- 4. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, wherein said device comprises:
 - a chipset.
- 5. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, wherein said device comprises:
 - a digital signal processor.

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- 6. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, further comprising:

 an encryptor adapted to encrypt confidential information.
- 7. (previously presented) The device as in claim 6, wherein: said encryptor is adapted to PGP-encrypt said confidential information.
- 8. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, further comprising:

 a decryptor adapted to decrypt confidential information.
- 9. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, further comprising:
- a signal module adapted to generate a notification signal upon receipt of a password request signal.
- 10. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, further comprising:
- a signal module adapted to generate a distribution request signal to prompt a far end user to enter distribution instructions.
 - 11. (canceled)
 - 12. (canceled)
 - 13. (canceled)
 - 14. (canceled)
 - 15. (canceled)

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- 16. (canceled)
- 17. (canceled)
- 18. (canceled)
- 19. (canceled)
- 20. (currently amended) A method for controlling facsimile transmission of confidential information, comprising:

comparing, at a near end, a near end password entered at a time of facsimile initiation at a device attempting to transmit a facsimile with a far end password entered at said time of facsimile initiation transmitted from said far end device at a receiving end of said facsimile transmission; and

authorizing transmission of confidential information from said near end to said far end if said comparison results in a match.

- 21. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

 encrypting said confidential information.
- 22. (previously presented) The method as in claim 21, further comprising:

PGP-encrypting said confidential information.

23. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

decrypting confidential information.

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24. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a notification signal upon receipt of a password request signal.

25. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a distribution request signal to prompt a user at said far end to enter distribution instructions.

26. (currently amended) A method for controlling facsimile transmission of confidential information, comprising:

comparing, at a near end, a near end password entered at a time of facsimile initiation at a device attempting to transmit a facsimile with a far end password entered at said time of facsimile initiation transmitted from said far end device at a receiving end of said facsimile transmission; and

encrypting said facsimile;

authorizing transmission of confidential information from said near end to said far end if said comparison results in a match.

27. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

encrypting said confidential information.

28. (previously presented) The method as in claim 21, further comprising:

PGP-encrypting said confidential information.

29. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

decrypting confidential information.

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30. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a notification signal upon receipt of a password request signal.

31. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a distribution request signal to prompt a user at said far end to enter distribution instructions.